

Scientists and engineers may also receive temporary work visas through intracompany transfer visas (L-1 visas), high-skilled worker visas under the North American Free Trade Agreement (TN-1 visas, a program primarily for Canadians now but granting full access for Mexican professionals by 2004), work visas for individuals with outstanding abilities (O-1 visas), and several smaller programs. In addition, there are temporary visas used by researchers, who may also be students (F-1 and J-1 visas), or postdocs and visiting scientists (mostly J-1 visas but often H-1b visas or other categories). Counts of visas issued for each of these categories are shown in text table 3-26. The annual quota of H-1b visas is controlled through issuance of visas to workers rather than through applications from companies. Anecdotally, some firms that expect to hire multiple workers on H-1b visas seek permission for many positions, and this affects the distribution of occupations outlined in text table 3-25.

Text table 3-26.

**FY 1996 temporary visas issued in major categories likely to include scientists and engineers**

Category	Issued
<b>Work visa</b>	
H-1b (specialty occupations requiring bachelor's equivalent) .....	58,327
L-1 (intracompany transfers) .....	32,098
TN (NAFTA visa for professionals) .....	29,252
O-1 (people of extraordinary ability) .....	2,765
O-2 (workers assisting O-1) .....	1,594
<b>Student/exchange visa</b>	
F-1 (students) .....	241,003
J-1 (exchange visitors) .....	171,164

SOURCE: Immigration and Naturalization Service administrative data.

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Text table 3-27.

**Recipients of 1992–93 doctorates with temporary visas at time of degree who remained in United States: 1994–97**

S&E field	Temporary residents	Percent in U.S. in:			
		1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Total</b> .....	16,391	48	51	52	53
Physical sciences and mathematics ...	4,821	55	59	60	61
Life sciences .....	3,765	48	51	53	54
Social sciences .....	2,278	29	31	32	32
Engineering .....	5,527	49	53	53	54

SOURCE: M. Finn, *Stay Rates of Foreign Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities* (Oak Ridge, TN: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Engineering, 2000).

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